Extend & Expand the G.I. Bill

VETERANS: WE'VE BEEN USED ONCE AND THEN THROWN AWAY ONCE THE RICH AND POWERFUL HAVE GOTTEN THEIR USE OUT OF US. BUT VETS REFUSE TO TAKE THE ATTACKS LYING DOWN AND ARE UNITING TO FIGHT BACK. AND A PART OF THAT FIGHT IS VVAW'S NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO EXTEND AND EXPAND THE GI BILL!

See Centerfold

IN THIS ISSUE

INTERVIEW with POW who chose China ..... PAGE 6

On the death of Mao Tsetung ..... PAGE 7

War: US-USSR square off ..... PAGE 13

VETS DAY ACTIONS ..... PAGE 3

THE VETERAN
Vietnam Veterans Against the War
25¢
Vol.6 No.5 October 1976

Vets Won't Scab or Starve!

VVAW, STRIKERS DEFEAT SCABS

VVAW in Cincinnati, Ohio united with a group of striking teamsters to shut off the flow of scab labor to the Convenience Stores Distribution Company warehouse in Cincinnati on September 12. It was a clear and effective case of vets joining with workers to put a stop to one of the many abuses which the rulers of this country are trying to bring down on all working people.

70 members of Teamsters Local #100 had been on strike for 10 weeks; for the last 8 weeks of that time, there had been no negotiations since the company was getting by using scab labor. The scabs came from right across the street from the warehouse at the TriState Drivers School which exists through training vets to be truck drivers and getting their money from the GI Bill. Abetting the company's management, the general manager of the school had been sending student veteran drivers across the strike line.

One of the striking teamsters saw a VVAW poster proclaiming "Extend and Expand the GI Bill" and called the chapter to see if they could help. In a meeting with 25 of the striking drivers, VVAW talked about the organization, about how we stand with working people, and about war; the chapter found that 22 of the 25 drivers at the meeting were vets. And, while all the vets, from the Korean War, World War II, and Vietnam did not agree on every issue, they were united around the need to stop the scabs.

And so, early in the morning of September 12, VVAW members joined the strikers on the strike line. The impact of the new forces, and the fear of bad publicity caused an immediate change in the outlook of the school. The general manager was fired the same day. And the head administrator called VVAW to pledge that no more student vets would be used as scabs.

It was a victory for the strikers and for VVAW around the demands carried on the strike line: Union Jobs from the GI Bill, Union Jobs at Union Wages, and We Won't Scab, We Won't Starve!

Politicans Fight for $ Interests; We Must Fight for Our OWN!!

ELECTIONS

Vote for America! Vote for national unity! Vote for Carter or Ford or Gene McCarthy or Lester Maddox! If you don't vote, you can't criticize. Be a part of America and VOTE!

All of these slogans have been either said or implied on TV, in the papers, at plant gates, in supermarkets around the country In the period leading up to the 4th of July, the band of theives who run this country kept trying to get across their message, wrapped in red, white and blue: Unify! We all have to pull together. While we might have some problems in this country, it's still the "freest" country in the world and the "democratic" system (meaning the system in which they're on top) has solved all its problems over the last 200 years and is good for at least 200 years more. Now as election time approaches, the words may be a little different but the song is still the same.

I haven't had anything to do with the state of the nation, says Carter--vote for me and I'll get rid of all the corruption and evil that has been plaguing Washington for the past 8 years and replace it with compassion. Ford has to take a little bit different line; things aren't all that bad, he says, and the things that are messed up--well, those are the fault of the Democratic Congress, so elect me and some more Republicans and we'll take care of it for you.

Credibility--faith in the government --is the big issue. Particularly in the face of polls saying that only 46% of voting-age Americans will even bother to vote in the 1976 elections. The candidates don't much care how many people vote--just that more people vote for them than for the other candidate. Even that doesn't matter too much in a city like Chicago or its many sister cities where the political machines can turn out legions of long-dead people to "vote" the way they want the votes to go. But the candidates, and even more important, the class of rich rulers of this country who pull the strings on the candidates, know that to continue their rule they have to have the American people on their side with at least enough faith in the government to vote for the president.

Continued on page 15

FREE ASHBY LEACH

VET BATTLES FOR BETTER LIFE

"I stood and looked at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument. Then I looked up at the Terminal Tower—at that Castle of Capitalism—and I knew what I had to do. . . . The barrel of my shotgun was stuffed with all the letters I've written to change the system for vets."

With these words, Ashby Leach, a 30-year-old Vietnam veterans described his decision to take over the offices of the Chessie system (the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad) in the Terminal Tower in Cleveland, Ohio. Like thousands of veterans all over the country, Ashby Leach had reached a situation which called for desparate action.

Ashby had served as a medic, and received a Purple Heart. He had seen first hand how the rulers of this country preach "freedom and democracy," but then throw away the lives of working people for the holy cause of profit. Following his military service, Ashby had become an apprentice mechanic at Chessie and found out even more clearly how the "system" shows its gratitude to veterans: once they are used, they are just thrown away.

As part of job training that vets were promised, there is a program where, when the veteran is working as an apprentice to learn a job, the government will make up the difference between the apprentice pay and that of a journeyman--in the case of Ashby, something like $1.50 per hour. When the Chessie system and the VA denied him these benefits, Ashby began a letter-writing campaign to get these wrongs righted. At one point he even picketed outside the hotel where the Chessie President was staying, demanding to see the President. It was here that Ashby was told that he should go to school.

And he did. But, after he was finished, despite their guarantees, the Chessie system refused to give him his job back. All during this time and after, Ashby had written to company and government officials to protest the kind of mistreatment he was getting. His letters were ignored. Nevertheless, he persisted. This summer he even wrote to each one of the members of the Congress; still there was no action on his plight. Ashby Leach was learning the same lesson that VVAW learned--that Congressmen as well as businessmen will always act in the interest of their own class, the rich, and will not act in the interests of the vast majority of the people of this country unless forced to do so.

Frustrated by all these dead ends, on August 26th Ashby Leach took over an office on the 36th floor of the Terminal Tower, where the Chessie system has its national headquarters. Among his 9 hostages was R. C. McGowan, vice-president of administration for Chessie, and it was McGowan who negotiated with Leach about his demands. According to the police, Ashby demanded reinstatement of the GI Bill for all Vietnam veterans, and reimbursement of all Chessie System veterans who had been cheated out of the Bill while working for the railroad. Ashby's wife Linda described the event a little differently: "Ashby believes the company broke its promise by not rehiring him after he left to finish his schooling under the GI Bill," she said. "He believes he is doing it for all the other Vietnam veterans who could not find jobs when they returned home."

Ashby Leach

After 9 hours, Ashby released all the hostages unharmed after McGowan promised that GI benefits would be extended to Vietnam veterans employed by Chessie and that Vietnam veterans who worked for Chessie would be reimbursed for GI benefits." Ashby also demanded media coverage for the demands in order to get the situation of veterans--not just those in the Chessie system, but all Vietnam vets--in front of the American people.

Millions of people watched on nationwide TV. Outside the Terminal Tower when Ashby surrendered, there were thousands of people gathered--many raising clenched fists and cheering. Ashby Leach had made a statement that not just vets, but everyone who's been messed-over and pushed around by the system could take as their own. Like the 15 members of VVAW who took-over the Statue of Liberty back in June of this year to put forward the campaing to Extend and Expand the GI Bill and to say that "We've Carried the Rich for 200 Years, Let's Get Them Off Our Backs," Ashby made a statement so loud and so public that even the people who run this country could not keep it from being heard.

Many of Ashby's friends had died on the battlefield. Others, returning to the states, their lives ruined, turned to dope and crime. But most came back seeing that they had a battle to wage right here at home, whether it be in the factories, unemployment lines, schools or VA hospitals. Vietnam veterans became active opponents of US involvement in Vietnam. Organizations like VVAW developed to defend the rights of GIs and oppose new threats and acts of war by the rulers of this country. More and more vets joined up with other forces and sections of the population to fight all the abuse heaped on us by the system. It was in this spirit that Ashby acted.

No sooner had he surrendered to the police than Chessie went back on its promises. The media made him out to be a lunatic, just the same way they deal with Vietnam veterans in TV program after program. The police allege that he harmed several hostages. And the courts indicted him on 16 counts. His bail was set at $450,000. But the fact is that Leach hurt no one--that is, no one except the precious images of the Chessie system and the VA. His demands are just demands. And this is exactly what the big corporations like Chessie and their hired politicians and administrators can't stand--that their filthy lies and promises have been exposed. Worse they fear that the courage of Ashby's actions will inspire others to stand up too. And that is why they've come down so heavy on him.

VVAW stands shoulder to shoulder with Ashby Leach. Across the country, vets are fighting to extend and expand the GI Bill, organizing demonstrations and protests as appear on other pages of this paper. What Ashby did served to dramatize the urgency of that fight. Many vets feel the same kind of seething frustration with a system which will not do anything to meet our needs, but is content to have squeezed their use out of us and then throw us aside. The mother of Ashby Leach, talking to reporters, said that after he was laid off by Chessie, her son became very angry. "He's been very upset," she said. "He said they're not treating the veterans right. He doesn't think it's right that anybody gives all they can to their country and then gets treated that way."

VVAW will continue to organize and support struggles of vets, whether it's in the schools, in the unemployment lines or whether it's actions such as that of Ashby Leach. We demand that he be released and that his demands be met. We call upon people to join us in a campaign to secure his release and press forward in the struggle.

THE VETERAN
Published by the
VVAW - National Office
P.O.Box 20184
Chicago,ILL.60620
[312] 651-1583

VVAW CALLS FOR VETS' ACTIONS

TO HELL WITH THEIR NATIONAL HONOR-WE WON'T BE USED AGAIN

1971 Veterans Day demonstration in Chicago, the first time VVAW held Vets Day actions. This was one of a series of demonstrations around the country demanding US Out of Vietnam.

Veterans Day, November 11th, a day of parades, speeches by politicians, a day to honor vets? Not by a long shot! Certainly a day of struggle.

Veterans Day was celebrated originally as Armistice Day, a day when people the world over breathed a sigh of relief that World War I had ended and with it the death and suffering that imperialist war brings. Years later it was redesignated Veterans Day in this country.

Aside from token ceremonies for those killed in American wars, Veterans Day has become a platform for the American ruling class to parade their troops, military hardware, and to run down their ragged line on "national honor." This year is no exception.

1976--the Bicentennial year. All year long we've been hit with a barrage of red, white and blue garbage about how all of us have to unite with the rich, the same people who sent us off to Vietnam or some other place to defend their wealth, the same people who break our backs in their factories and shops. They make the profits and we take the lumps. Yes, national unity to save the country--the country working people built and the rich people live off.

Today this theme of national unity is heard more and more as the danger of war between the US and Soviet Union grows. Veterans Day will be a prime example of this. The American Legion, VFW, and other veterans organizations controlled by the ruling class will be parading up and down the streets of many cities to glorify wars, preach patriotism and national honor and to push for a bigger defense budget.

VVAW will be there too but we'll be saying "To Hell With Their National Honor--We Won't Be Used Again" and "We Won't Fight Another Rich Man's War."

As veterans of the US military from Korea to Vietnam we know only too well what they mean by "national honor." National honor means the US rich want us to fight to defend their interests around the world, With the US and Soviet Union at each others throats in Africa, the Middle East and Europe, they'll want us to be the "fresh meat" in their war as the rulers of both countries push for more control all over the globe.

Vets know very well what we can expect from going in the military and being used in these wars. A leaflet issued by Detroit VVAW on Veterans Day 1975 put it correctly by saying, "If the people who run this country think they can use us up in their wars, treat us like trash as GIs and vets, and then recycle us in another war for their profits, in the Middle East or elsewhere, they are living in a dream world. Veterans Day to us is a day when we show the rats that rule this country that we refuse to accept the rotten conditions and treatment forced on veterans, and that we won't be murdered for their profits again."

The rotten conditions and treatment the leaflet spoke about last year haven't gotten any better either. VA services have grown worse, unemployment for vets is higher, and the GI Bill is being cut to ribbons by more attacks than ever before. As the economy sags more and more, the rich, up against a crisis they can't solve, try to shift their losses off on us by attacking the very programs we need to live. We're not sitting by idly and letting them run this crap down on us though!

Vets are taking up the fight for "Jobs or Income," and against the conditions at the VAs across the country. A national campaign, led by VVAW is being built to "Extend and Expand the GI Bill," knowing that we must stand up and fight or be crushed by the rich.

Last year on Veterans Day, marches, demonstrations, picket lines and other activities were held by VVAW in New York, Detroit, Milwaukee, Southern California and Chicago.

This year, the number of activities will increase in other cities, keeping pace with the growing vets movement, as vets across the country join together this Veterans Day in saying, "To Hell With Their National Honor--We Won't Be Used Again."

VFW PARADES FOR THE RICH IN NYC

When the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) held their national convention and parade in New York City in mid-August, the VVAW chapter was there.

The VFW parade, held on August 17th, marched through the Central Park West area of the city, surrounded by $1000 per month apartments. There were horses from Texas, lots of high school bands to fill in the ranks--and very few Vietnam veterans.

VVAW set up a table and took out copies of our petition to Extend and Expand the GI Bill, sold 50 copies of The Veteran, and talked to VFW members. Several rank and file vets were suprised to learn that their leadership (which was staying in a swanker hotel than the rest of the members) did nothing to fight the termination of the GI Bill back on Memorial Day and vowed to go back to their local posts to find out more about why their "leaders" took such a position when they, the members, not only thought that the VFW should have fought to extend the bill but also didn't even know what their so-called leaders were doing.

EXTEND AND EXPAND THE GI BILL

WE WON'T FIGHT ANOTHER RICH MAN'S WAR

JOBS or INCOME NOW!

BATTLING HACKS &BOSSES

AUTO WORKERS STRIKE

On September 15th, over 170,000 auto workers struck Ford Motor Company in 23 states across the country. After 4 weeks the strike was still growing day by day, not only at Ford plants but also gaining support from auto workers at General Motors, Chrysler, and American Motors. Contrary to Ford's and to Leonard Woodcock's (sellout leader of the International Union of United Auto Workers) plans, the strikers continued to deepen the contract struggle and not simply "cool their heels" or give in to the itch to return to work.

The rank and file union members are angry and this anger has been building for months--in fact, for years--over speedup on the job, layoffs, combining jobs, harassment, forced overtime and other attacks that have resulted in a loss of 100,000 jobs in the auto industry over the past three years. Now, Ford Motor Company is proposing another contract which will only increase these attacks. The Company proposals include: (1) Only a 3% wage increase (2)Starting pay for workers to be $1 less per hour, very few benefits, and full pay and benefits coming only after a full year's employment (3) Taking away part of the hard-won cost of living adjustment (COLA) in order to extend dental care for retirees and no COLA on pensions (4) Dental coverage reduced, emergency room coverage modified (5) rules requiring everyone to work the day before and the day after all holidays in order to be paid and tightening of rules for loss of vacation time due to missing work.

The Ford rank and file are saying that the company can take these rules and shove them. And they know from experience that the rank and file will have to do the shoving, too. For months before the strike, the Union, represented nationally by Leonard Woodcock, was carrying on some kind of strange talks that Woodcock called "the most peaceful negotiations ever," while stating there were "no issues for the workers to get excited about." He's changed his tune recently, particularly in the face of militant walkouts and the growanger of Ford workers all over the country.

The rank and file workers have learned through bitter years of struggle with the large auto companies and sellout union officials that they have to rely on themselves in their fight for a decent way of life is to advance. The rank and file organization called Auto Workers United to Fight in '76 (AWUF) has had a significant impact on the fight for a good contract against Ford. Formed in the Detroit area last spring, AWUF held a demonstration and two-day conference in the Detroit in the middle of August to gear up for the coming contract fight. The demonstration of 100 auto workers in front of the UAW International Headquarters answered sharply the lies about how auto workers were too scared to fight and put forward the real demands of the rank and file.

The two-day conference that followed the demonstration was attended by representatives from 19 different chapters of AWUF as well as many individual fighters, about 90 in all. Determined to reject any sellout by the International Union and to build their strength before the strike, the AWUF put out a list of demands that have become the banner of auto workers across the US. They are:

*Full sub benefits--no cutoffs!
*Defend and Extend our right to strike over speedup and all grievances.
*No more forced overtime. No overtime at all in plants where workers are on layoff.
*An improved COLA and an across-the-board wage increase.
*30 and out (auto workers retirement plan must be made a reality by having full cost of living on pensions!
* Improved seniority and job rights.

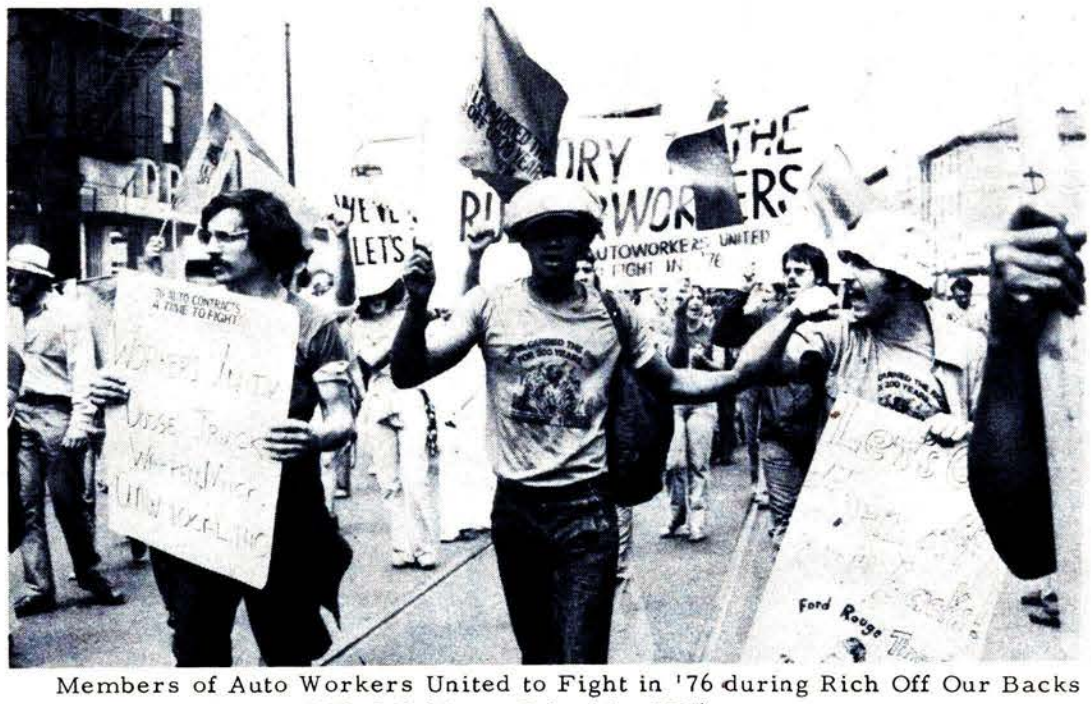
On September 14th the strike began early with walkouts and demonstrations in some plants. Early walkouts were at Ford plants in Chicago and Mahway, New Jersey, with demonstrations at Brookpark near Cleveland, Ohio, and at the Dearborn Stamping Plant in the River Rouge complex near Detroit. The strike grew daily as more union locals around the country battled to shut Ford down entirely. Major strike activities occurred in Detroit, Chicago, Avon Lake (Ohio), Ford Fairfax (near Cincinnati) Atlanta Georgia, and many other places totaling over 120 Union locals out on strike.

In a statement to all auto workers and the American public, AWUF said: "What happens at Ford is important to all auto workers and now is definitely not the time for GM, Chrysler and AMC workers to sit back and wait for their own expiration dates to come. The stronger the Ford strike is, the stronger the workers at GM, Chrysler, and other auto industries will be.

"The rank and file actions that kicked off the Ford strike, over Woodcock's objections and the efforts of his henchmen to stop them, are a good start at shattering this 'phoney' labor peace. They show the sentiments of hundreds of thousands of auto workers, and millions of working people throughout the country for a real fight to advance our real interests. They show that we are not isolated and powerless, that they don't have everything 'all locked up.' And they show what we need a lot more of, in the days ahead and in the battles of the future.

"Nobody's going to stick up for us but ourselves. We, the rank and file are the union, not those bloated toads like Woodcock, bargaining away our lives and livelihoods in exchange for their plush positions. So let's get united as the rank and file, and get down to business."

Auto Workers United to Fight in '76 encourages all auto workers who agree with their statement and demands, and who want to build the fight around the contract to call them; their national headquarters is in Detroit. Call (313) 893-8350.



Members of Auto Workers United to Fight in '76 during Rich Off Our Backs Demonstration in Philadelphia on July 4th, 1976.

PROGRAM
OF
VIETNAM VETERANS
AGAINST THE WAR

25¢

Bulk Rates available
Make checks payable to
VVAW
Box 20184,Chicago,ILL 60620

● WE WON'T FIGHT ANOTHER RICH MAN'S WAR !

US OUT OF KOREA

Members of Cincinnati VVAW, with support from the Revolutionary Student Brigade and Youth in Action, hold picket line demanding US Out of Korea Now following the August 18th "incident" on the DMZ.

On August 18 a large force of US soldiers and Korean laborers was sent into the demilitarized zone at Panmunjon between north and south Korea. They carried steel pikes and axes and moved to trim a tree that was blocking an observation post sighting into the northern zone, knowing from past experience this would provoke an incident. Soldiers from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) intervened. A fight broke out, with DPRK soldiers grabbing some of the tools from the US detail. In the struggle that followed two US army officers were killed and five DPRK soldiers injured.

The US ruling class went wild, calling the two officers' deaths "brutal murder." Three aircraft squadrons and the USS Midway task force were dispatched to Korea. On August 20, under orders from President Ford, 300 soldiers were sent into the DMZ, backed up by 26 helicopter gunships, numerous jet fighters and three B-52's, all to cut down the tree.

The massive display of force was designed to show that US imperialism is still rough and ready to use its military might to defend its interests. It was a direct provocation to the people of Korea and a threat of war. But while President Ford and presidential hopeful Carter went on TV to beat the drums and condemn the DPRK and Ted Kennedy chimed in, a lot of people wanted to know what was really going on, first things first. The question was best put by the mother of one of the slain US officers: 'What are American troops doing in Korea anyway?"

The US has had its troops in Korea since the end of World War II. The story is familiar: a country divided, with the US occupying the southern half; elections sabotaged by the US because their man, Syngman Rhee, had been a Japanese puppet and would have lost big; then a war to stop the Korean people from unifying their nation and kicking out the foreign occupiers--the US.

Since the war the two Koreas have been forced to develop separately. In the north the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a socialist country where the workers and peasants rule. In the south the US has created, sponsored and propped us a brutal dictatorship, the so-called Republic of Korea (ROK). The ROK regime is a haven for US imperialist investment where Korean workers are offered up for exploitation at 25 cents a day and masses wander the streets unemployed. These sweatshops churn out finished textile goods, final electronic assemblies, where enormous profits are reaped from intensive work at starvation wages. This is what American troops are doing in south Korea, keeping a firm grip on a US neo-colony.

The US ruling class finds it increasingly harder, especially since the Vietnam War and the tremendous resistance to that war in this country, to justify keeping troops stationed in Asia. Added to this is that the present ROK regime of Pak Jung Hi is increasingly becoming more exposed. In the ROK thousands of people are rounded up each week for opposing Pak's US-backed tyranny and some are publicly executed as a warning to others who might resist. In a recent display of "public support" a few people were forced to cut their little fingers off on national television to "show their devotion to Pak." Pak's rule is vicious and there is precious little he won't do to please his US masters, even though the US sometimes finds his excesses embarrassing.

To win public support for the stationing of 45,000 GIs in Korea, the US rulers try to portray the DPRK as warmongers, threatening the "freedom" of the people of the south--really the freedom of the big US corporations to reap billions of dollars from the sweat of Korean workers. To pull off this charade the US has constantly made provocations against the territory of the northern zone. The famous "Pueblo incident" is a case in point, where a US intelligence gathering ship intruded into the territorial waters of the north, daring the DPRK to take action. A year ago, President Ford continued in the same vein, specifically threatening nuclear weapons in the event of another Korean war.

On August 5, nearly two weeks before the tree-trimming incident, the DPRK released a statement condemning an upswing in provocations by the US "with the intention of aggravating tension in Korea." The US had been shipping large quantities of up-to-date military equipment and supplies into the ROK and moving fresh ammunition up to the DMZ. The ROK regime imposed a "war-time system" in south Korea.

On August 8 the US had gone out to trim the tree but DPRK soldiers prevented them peacefully by blocking their work with a truck. When the US returned to the DMZ on August 18, it was a calculated move; they knew the DPRK didn't want the tree messed with--it blocked observation into their zone--and they knew there was likely to be trouble. But the US imperialists didn't give a damn for the men they sent into the DMZ. They were cannon fodder. If the tree got cut down, fine. If there was an incident, okay. It would just "prove" the need for US imperialism to occupy Korea.

The pattern today is all too familiar: send some soldiers to fight for an unjust cause. Then when some get killed, use that as an excuse to escalate and send still more troops to protect our boys. Unfortunately for them, too many people still remember Vietnam. As VVAW said in a statement which was given out all over the country, "Vietnam Vets got used, really used, and we know it. The rich in this country sent us off to protect their oil refineries, rubber plantations, and businesses in Vietnam and then threw us aside like trash when we came home. Will we do it again? Hell No!"

The ruling class is playing with fire by beating wardrums over Korea--in more ways than one. If they do launch another war of aggression, they will surely be met by widespread and powerful opposition in Korea, around the world, and here at home.

SUBSCRIBE

____ ONE YEAR, $6

____ INSTITUTIONS, $15

SUSTAINERS

____ I would like to become part of the monthly sustainer program. I will contribute $_____ a month. This includes a subscription to the VETERAN.

CONTRIBUTIONS

____ I would like to contribute $____ to building VVAW and the VETERAN.

Make checks payable to

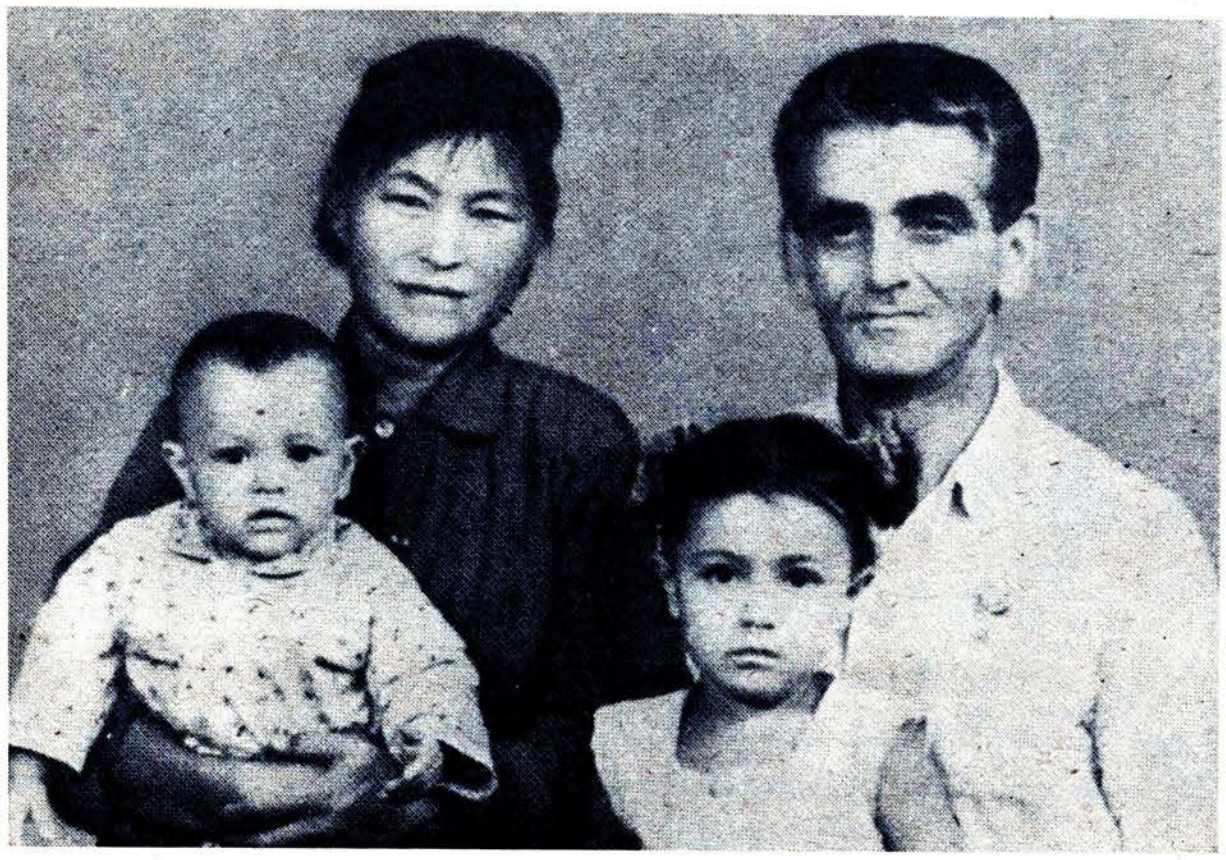
Vietnam Veterans Against the War

Box 20184, Chicago, ILL 60620

INTERVIEW with Korean War POW,

I WENT TO CHINA TO BUILD FRIENDSHIP

James Veneris, a former POW during the Korean War, chose to live in the Peoples' Republic of China following that war. Denounced as a "turncoat" by US government and military officials, he recently was given permission to visit his native country, the US, to see relatives and friends here. As part of his visit, Veneris has been travelling around the country speaking of the friendship between the Chinese and American people. During his travels, VVAW was able to interview Mr. Veneris about his experiences and what he has learned from them.



James Veneris, his wife, and two children.

Born in a small steel town near Pittsbug, Pennsylvania, in a working class family, his father worked the coal mines, foundry and other similar jobs in the western Pennsylvania area. After graduating from high school, James Veneris, discouraged by jobs that paid wages like $3.50 a week, joined the Army in 1940. He fought for five years through the jungles of the Pacific until World War II ended in 1945. After the war he went from job to job, punctuated by layoffs.

"When the Korean war came, I was working in the auto factory in Detroit. I thought, I can go back in the Army. After all, my friends were there. I had a terrific struggle in my mind for a time, but I went back in the Army and went to Korea.

"When I first went to Korea, the first thing that astounded me was the morale of the United Nations troops. Everywhere I went there wasn't the spirit of fighting there was in World War II. Also I thought of another thing. What are we doing in Korea anyway? When I saw the Korean people and saw the women and children of North Korea, they were really fighting. I was told they were slaves. Then I looked around me at the United Nations troops. They called them (the Korean people) 'Gooks.' Why should they call them Gooks? Didn't McCarthy (the violently anti-communist witch-hunting Senator from Wisconsin) say 'we must go to Korea and liberate them.' Then why can't they liberate themselves? Why do we have to help them? I had a lot of questions in my mind but I think Korea answered them for me.

"We (the American people) were told about the Communist menace, millions of 'reds' from China and Korea would overrun the world, how cruel they were and how they tookover a country and killed and tortured the people. When I went there and saw the Korean people fighting so bravely; if they were slaves, why were they fighting in this way? . . . What did we go to Korea for? To protect American business interest."

When questioned about the so-called Chinese invasion of Korea, Mr Veneris replied, "I don't know if a lot of people know about this, but the Chinese government warned the US and UN, 'Don't cross the 38th Parallel' (the dividing line between North and South Korea). Then the American troops crossed the 38th Parallel. A lot of troops felt very bad about that action. When the American troops got to the Yellow River (the border between North Korea and China) they also started to bomb the cities in Northeast China and many people were killed. The Chinese sent volunteers to help the North Korean people after they were bombed, after US troops crossed the 38th Parallel and not before. . . . In World War II we were fighting a just war; in Korea we felt something was unjust about it. How can you fight and win when you treat a people as inferiors? We even treated the South Koreans like that. . . . Where were all these big shots (like McCarthy, Truman, MacArthur) at while we were in Korea? They were in Washington raving about Communism. I thought about that, too."

Asked about the circumstances leading to his capture, Veneris recalled: "When I got to Korea I was a replacement. I started to walk up North to join my outfit. The UN troops were going south. They were battered up and retreating. It looked pretty screwy to me. Korea at that time was already flattened to the ground. . . . I finally got to my outfit up North and fighting was going on. Everyone was retreating. We started moving south at the end of a convoy. The convoy, that was about a hundred miles long, got stuck. I'll never forget that day, November 28, 1950. All of a sudden, at 2 in the morning, the Chinese attacked. We couldn't see anybody; we were surrounded. They could have cut us to pieces but they didn't. I tried to start a vehicle but couldn't. I ran up this mountain and hid there with another guy and a little Korean boy. Later we climbed to the top of this mountain and hid in this hole until the fog cleared. We saw thousands of Chinese volunteers, close enough so we couldn't move. We thought about how we could get out of there. I said, 'By golly we can't give up; that would be unpatriotic. Then I thought about blowing my brains out, but I thought if I did that I couldn't fight anymore. It was cold, didn't have a damn cigarette on me and I was hungry. We couldn't move. That same afternoon we saw a bunch of GIs, UN troops, they were prisoners. I didn't want to be taken prisoner, but I looked down and saw they were being treated good and they were even being given food. . . . Finally I just made up my mind. Saying, 'Well, they'll probably kill us, but I couldn't stand it anymore.' So finally I got out of our hole and went down and gave up."

Veneris and the other POWs were told that the Chinese had a lenient treatment policy toward prisoners; they experienced good treatment. They were immediately given food, warm clothing, and shelter after capture. Housed at first in local Korean homes, they were later moved North to avoid US bombing which was devastating the countryside. In fact Veneris said, "Everytime the Korean or Chinese people told us to do something, it was for our own good."

Veneris's experiences in the POW camp were many and varied. Upon arrival, they set up committees to take care of sanitation and food preparation. National holidays of the various groups were celebrated and different POW camps competed regularly in athletic events.

Speaking of the food situation Veneris said, "One day this Chinese guy got on his cart with his horse and went out to get food for us. He came back that evening. I could see the horse cart; it was full of sacks of grain, flour and rice and some vegetables. And the guy was dead on the cart. He was strafed by American planes. He died so we could eat. . . . A lot of the Turkish

Continued on page 15

Death a Deep Loss
Life a Profound Inspiration

MAO TSETUNG: Great Leader of the Working Class

Mao Tsetung died on September 9 at the age of 82. Not only in China but around the world people mourned the passing of this great leader, teacher, revolutionary and communist. During his life he had come to represent the struggle for the complete emancipation of working people; the hope and realization that after the working class had kicked out the ownership class, the capitalists, and begun building a new society, that things could progress, that they did not have to turn back with the capitalists re-seizing power as in the Soviet Union.

His death did not go unnoticed by his enemies. Across this country magazines, newspapers and assorted commentators have gone into overtime to sum up Mao Tsetung's life. These "public opinion leaders" who only a short time ago would have commented on his death as merely the passing of another "communist tyrant" must now grudgingly offer "praise." Things have changed since the briefings we got before going off to Vietnam about how we Americans were going to be fighting the ruthless guerilla ideology of Mao Tsetung thought. Remember being told that "guerillas were the fish in the sea of the people" and how we Americans were there to "dry up that sea." The military's evaluation of Mao, and his strategy and tactics fit with reality about as well as the explanation about how we were in Vietnam to defend the peoples' freedom and not Standard Oil's profit.

When many of us returned, we tried to sort out the conditions both from that war and in the society we had re-entered. We joined the anti-war movment to oppose the very war we fought in. There was a lot of confusion but one thing that stood out was that the "fish" were not swimming in a hostile "sea." Further, that guerilla war, "peoples' war" was just--that it was a war fought by, for and with the support of the people. Our own experience taught us that fighting on the side without any support of the people meant sure defeat. We began to question more and more.

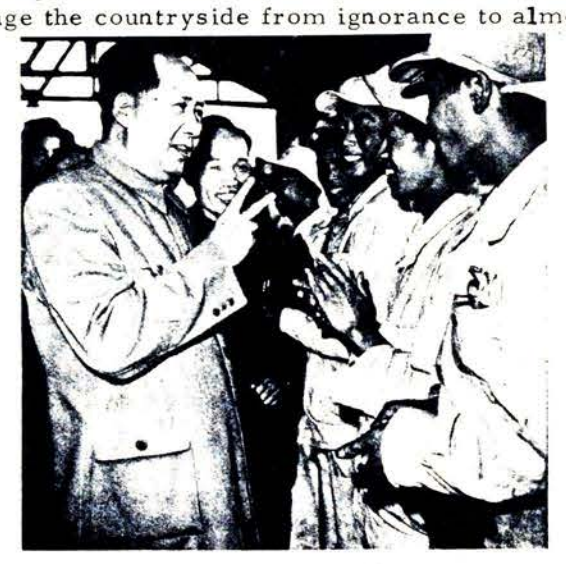
Things have changed a lot since our childhood when not eating our vegetables meant hearing about eating all our food because millions were dying of starvation in China. How our eating vegetables was supposed to help people starving in another country was always hard to figure out, but more than that, with time and the great achievements made by China we were able to figure out that it wasn't true that people were hungry in China. In fact, China had been able not only to feed its people but provide medical care for all, build up industry and change the countryside from ignorance to almost complete literacy. This stood in sharp contrast to other developing countries like India and even the United States and other developed countries.

Because these achievements could not be hidden from the people, the rich of this country used every trick to portray them as the achievements of a dictator, ruthless though benevolent. Even when writing about Mao's death, the media tried to portray Mao as the "ruler" of China; but, Mao never "ruled" China. In China, the working class rules, along with the peasants. Mao has time and again led them and led them forward. But there is a big difference between a ruler and a leader. Mao was a leader, a leader who consistently fought those who would become the new rulers of the Chinese people.

Mao was not just an inspriation in the abstract, some icon without basis in substance other than his image on a poster or a button. He was an inspiration not because of one heroic act or even a few, but because his whole life he remained a dedicated communist who stood with the people; in taking this stand, he learned from, summed up and led their struggles, advancing society and helping to move it forward.

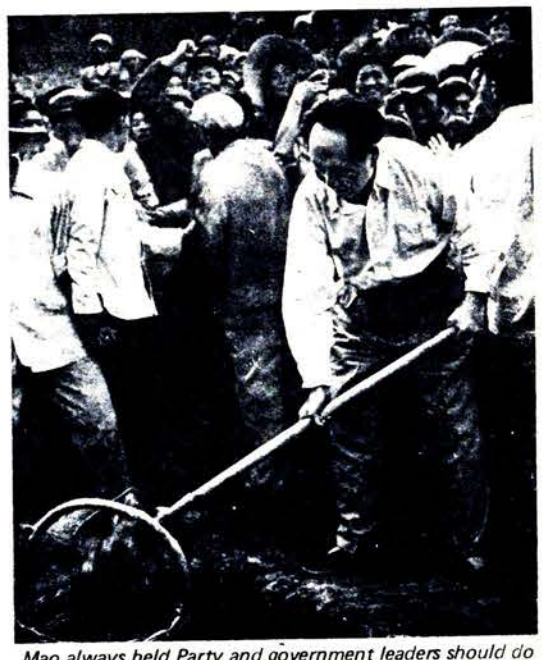
Throughout the entire course of the Chinese revolution until the end of his life, Mao Tsetung devoted his life to the people and became a great leader not only of the Chinese people but of working and oppressed people around the world. His contribution to and development of the science of revolution apply not only to the Chinese situation at that time, but apply universally. He was a great Marxist-Leninist who developed the line that even after the working class seizes control and runs the government under socialism, still the classes and class struggle exist. Further, he said that it was necessary for workers to constantly defend their power and advance society.

Mao will be remembered because his whole life was in service to the people. As Mao Tsetung said, "All men must die, but death can vary in its significance. The ancient Chinese writer Szuma Chien said, 'Though death befalls all men alike, it may be weightier than Mount Tai or lighter than a feather.' To die for the people is weightier than Mount Tai, but to work for fascists and die for the exploiters and oppressors is lighter than a feather." Mao's death is heavy indeed.



Mao Tsetung talking with workers at a steel plant in Anhwei Province in 1959. Mao never ruled over the Chinese people —on the contrary he led them in becoming, for the first time, the masters of their own destiny.

Mao Tsetung at a poor peasants' conference in 1933. After setbacks in the cities, his line of building Red base areas in the countryside proved correct.



Mao always held Party and government leaders should do productive labor. Here, he takes part in building a reservoir in 1958, along with millions of other volunteers.

VETERANS, CL

EXTEND & EXPAN

VETS! TODAY WE ARE FACING A DAMN SERIOUS SITUATION. WE HAVE TWO CHOICES: EITHER WE STAND UP AND FIGHT, OR WE'LL BE CRUSHED. Most of us never thought it would be this bad as we marked our days off on the short-timers calendar. But after getting discharged we found ourselves on another operation--Operation Hard Times.

While we were in the military, we looked forward to the day we got out because we thought it would be an improvement over the day-to-day hassles of military life. No one argues that it's not good without having NCO's and Officers on our backs day and night, but the way we have to live and the conditions we face sure aren't what we expected. When the rich sent us off to fight in their war in Vietnam, when they needed us to keep their business interests nice and safe for them, they promised us the sky; they delivered little. The truth is that they didn't care for us one bit-- they used us and then they threw us away. Sure we got some benefits, and we fought for them too, but it's a nightmare trying to get them and keep what little scraps they throw us.

EXTEND AND EXPAND THE GI BILL

The latest and biggest attack on vets is the cuts that keep coming down on the GI Bill. On Memorial Day, 1976, the day that the VFW and American Legion were parading up and down the streets saying how great it is to fight for the rich man, 3.7 million of us vets, discharged from 1954-1966, were bounced off the GI Bill. Nearly half a million of these vets were in school at the time. Many of these vets, members of VVAW or vets we go to school with, held VA certificates of eligibility for many more months of school, but they received no warning until the letter came in the mail with the bad news--no more GI Bill for you!

That cut was just the beginning of what they have in store for us. Current legislation floating around Congress tells a grim tale of things to come. These bills include: plans to cut off the GI Bill for those entering the service after January 1976; cutting the present eligibility for the Bill from 10 to 8 years; and many other cuts.

That's one side of the attack on us; the other side is sneakier. The VA is now auditing and checking our attendance in many schools. Much like the roll call in the military, if they don't like the results, you're off the GI Bill. In some schools if the VA doesn't like your grade average (taken in spot checks), they decide what courses you should take, or you're off the Bill. If these cuts haven't hit us yet, it's only a matter of time until they get around to us all. For 1900 vets at Northern Virginia Community College, it hit already. The VA cut them all of saying that they won't get any more checks until they pay back what the VA claims is overpaid from last year! These people must think we get rich on $270 a month. At Harry S. Truman College in Chicago, vets have been told they shouldn't expect any checks for a long time since the school (formerly Mayfair College) neglected to tell the VA they were changing the name of the school. To the VA a list of names and numbers on a computer printout sheet; to us, no money to pay for tuition, books, food, etc., etc. They could give a good damn too, because the more of us they force out of school the less work they have to do. More important, the more money the government and the class of people who run it have to channel into more profitable ventures.

If the GI Bill cuts aren't enough to swallow, the rest of the benefits we heard so much about are being slashed too. The VA hospitals have the lowest doctor-patient ratio in the country, the staffs are being cut, which is pretty dangerous if you're lying in one of their beds. The out-patient clinics are getting slower than chow lines in mess halls. Vets with disabilities are feeling the ax too. One blinded vet on the East coast got his disability cut from 100% to 80% because he was adjusting to his disability. An avalanche of red tape makes the ability to get a home loan or disability hearing nearly impossible under any fair conditions.

JOBS OR INCOME

The cuts aren't just affecting vets either. The whole rich man's system is falling apart and the ruling class cuts anything that doesn't turn over a profit for them. That's why the VA is going downhill fast. It's exactly the same reason why our cities are falling apart, the schools are being shut, the hospitals and firehouses are being closed. The capitalist system we live under threw us on the street in the same way they're throwing millions out of work and into the poorhouse. The corporations are making billions in profits and it's coming from our pockets. We sweat in their factories and mills and when they start losing their bucks, we get laid off. Or they turn the machines up so they get more work out of us with the same pay.

The unemployment offices are crammed with 10 million workers. For vets, we get a higher national unemployment average than our fellow workers. Younger vets got over 20% and Black vets got 32% out of jobs. The newspapers and some of the bums in Congress say we're shiftless and lazy but that's a lot of crap. Unlike the rich parasites who sit in plush office buildings, working people aren't afraid to go to work and get their hands dirty. Working people want jobs and we vets are no exception. That's why we join with the working class demanding Jobs or Income Now. We don't mean jobs like the ones they go advertised all over the billboards or even in the unemployment centers--military jobs!

For sure we've had enough of that. We know what the US military is for--we've had enough experience with it to tell us that it's no picnic and it's no glory. Any Vietnam vet could testify to the fact that we weren't over their protecting "freedom and democracy" like they told us. We saw too much. Search and destroy missions and B-52 saturation bombings aren't the kind of things you do protecting your "allies." We saw our buddies die, we got wounded and maimed so that a handful of rich could try to make the world safe for their stinking system.

WI

S
ians
sing
being
know
Mem
war,
rulin
of th
and
lies.
that
in is
thing
Wher
idea
on.

each
East
Euro
and
vinc
sayi
We
felle
back
in jo
in th
And
the
gion
fight

We
work
learn
work
back
toge

The
man
nus
for a
In 19

CLOSE RANKS

ND THE GI BILL!

VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR

WE WON'T FIGHT ANOTHER RICH MAN'S WAR

So now the newspapers and the politicians are banging the war drums again, passing huge military budgets and talking about being the Number One Superpower. We know that they don't use B-1 bombers for Memorial Day parades. They use them for war, and this time it's going to be with the ruling class's chief rival, the ruling class of the USSR. All their talk about "detente" and "peace through strength" is nothing but lies. We know from experience in Vietnam that the only thing the rich are interested in is profits, not peace, and they'll do anything to protect them and expand them. When you got two superpowers with the same ideas, they're going to hit each other head on.

Look around. The US and USSR are at each others' throats--in Angola, the Middle East, warships in the Mediterranean, and Europe an armed camp. Well, the Duponts and the Rockefellers are not going to convince us that we have to stand behind them saying that the USSR is our common enemy. We say to hell with the Duponts and Rockefellers. Their class has been riding our backs for 200 years and we have no interest in joining with them to fight working people in the Soviet Union or any other country. And we're not going to join their flunkies, the leaders of the VFW or the American Legion in supporting their wars. We won't fight another rich man's war!

Our fight is against the rule of the rich. We stand shoulder to shoulder with the working class in this battle. And we've learned from the countless struggles of workers that you don't get nothing by sitting back. You get something by standing up together and fighting for it.

VETS CLOSE RANKS

Vets have a proud history of struggle. The Bonus Marchers, 25,000 strong, demanded and finally won their promised bonus and they also demanded work or wages for all. VVAW has a proud history too. In 1971 over a thousand of us vets threw away our war medals in disgust at the Capitol steps demanding an end to the Vietnam war. A hundred vets marched in Los Angeles to demand an end to the cutoffs in the GI Bill. In June of this year, VVAW members seized the Statue of Liberty to protest the cutoff of 3.7 millions vets from the GI Bill. And most recently, in Philadelphia on July 4th, hundreds of vets joined with thousands of workers from across the country--from the coal mines to the steel mills--to loudly proclaim, "We've Carried the Rich for 200 Years, Let's Get Them Off Our Backs!"

To win what we need we must build this national campaign to focus the anger of vets everywhere around our demands. This will build that unity we need in order to win this fight. The petition to "Extend and Expand the GI Bill" is one way to get the word out. The specific demands on the petition are:

The demands are clear; they're on the minds of vets everywhere but mean little if they aren't out in public. We take every opportunity for vets to be heard, take advantage of every speaking opportunity we have. We leaflet, poster, demonstrate, hold picket lines. Veterans Day is a good example. On Veterans Day the American Legion and VFW peddle their trash about war, patriotism, and dead vets. We're there saying "What about living vets?" We refuse to live like this." Actions on Vets Day in every local area, actions at schools--these and other militant actions help to build a national campaign.

We in VVAW want what every vet wants--a decent life without screwing over the guy next door, or the guy across the ocean either. Vets, we have no choice. Either we fight, or we keep getting ground down into the dirt. Building this national campaign and our unity, we have to depend on ourselves to do it.

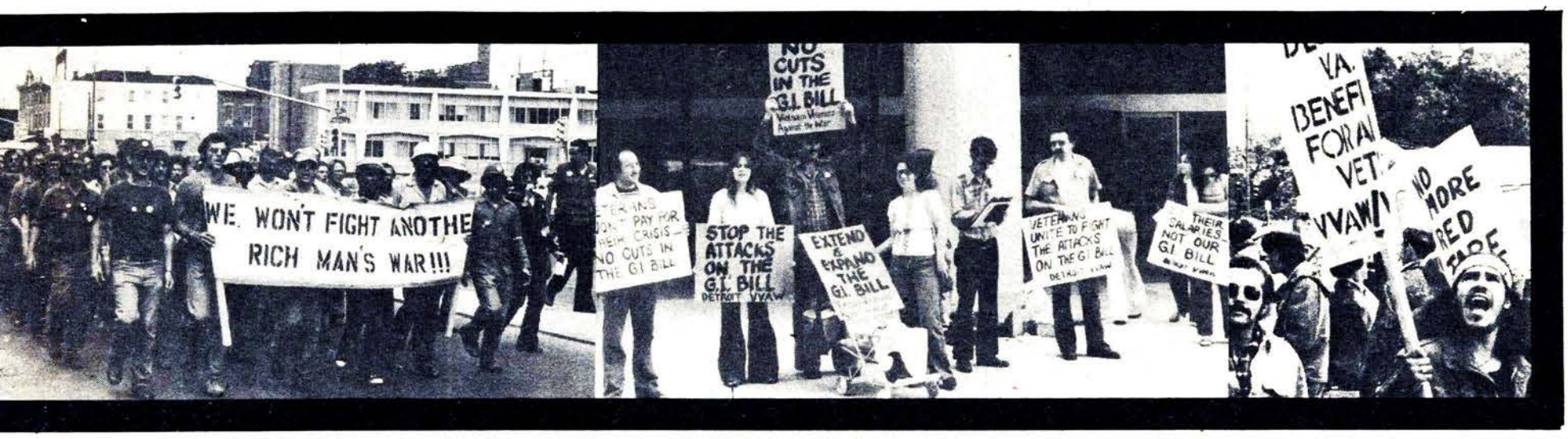
★ Payment of All School Expenses plus Decent Living Allowance!

★ An End to All G.I. Bill Restrictions!

★No Cutoff in the G.I. Bill!

VETS, CLOSE RANKS

FIGHT, DON'T STARVE



"LEGIONNAIRE'S DISEASE"

VFW SLANDERS VVAW

In late July a mysterious, still unsolved disease swept the American Legion convention held in Philadelphia. To date 180 people have come down with Legionnaire's disease resulting in 29 deaths. The disease caused great concern in the city as people feared that the swine flu had hit with no cure for it. The sagging tourist trade in the "Bicentennial City" fell even lower as families stayed away for fear of contracting it. The Bellevue-Stratford Hotel, site of the convention, and one of the most prestigious hotels in the city, was like a ghost town. Everyone in the city talked about the tragic deaths and wanted to know what caused them.

But two leaders of the Veteran of Foreign Wars, John Kapitolo and Joseph Buckley, members of the Philadelphia Executive Board, used this tragedy to launch an outrageous attack on VVAW, the Rich Off Our Backs--July 4th Coalition, and the July 4th Coalition. They raved about how these groups were responsible for the deaths. Buckley said that these groups had infiltrated the city and, "for them to go out on a sneak attack against the finest kind of Americans there are . . . is terrible." His cohort, Kapitolo, after naming the groups, said,"It's their ideologies against ours, and they play for keeps."

With their 100% blind Americanism, the VFW clearly couldn't care less about this tragedy. They're interested only in turning it to their own perverted aims, and making a little political hay to serve their own purposes. The VFW, like the Legion, serves the rule of the rich--not the interests of working people or veterans. Just where the hell do they get off with making charges like this?

The VFW supported the war in Vietnam--they didn't care about thousands of deaths, both American and Vietnamese. The VFW has been silent about the cuts in the GI Bill. They call for increased defense budgets and parade around the country trying to drum up support for the US ruling class and their wars of imperialism. They treated the deaths of the Legionnaires in the same way they treat everything. With no concern for what caused the deaths, these VFW leaders used the tragedy to put forward their own reactionary politics.

VVAW was a part of the Rich Off Our Backs--July 4th Coalition which demonstrated in Philadelphia on July 4th under the slogan "We've Carried the Rich for 200 Years, Let's Get Them Off Our Backs." We're proud of the role we played, marching with workers from all over the country in opposition to all the abuses we face every day and to put out to the ruling class that we don't buy their Bicentennial message of "national unity."

We don't accept slanders from the VFW either. We see no future in the rotten system we live under, the system that the VFW so staunchly supports. We see no future for a system that can't solve the tragic "Legionnaire's" disease or spawns organizations like the VFW which uses everything it can find against the interests of working people in order to keep themselves alive and in the hip pocket of the rich who rule.

LETTERS

THE VETERAN welcomes letters, comments and criticisms. Please write. Also, send along any poetry, drawings, photos or stories you would like to see in the paper.

(The following letter was written by a VVAW member who is a student at Kennedy-King College, one of the city colleges of Chicago. In order to win official recognition at the college, VVAW followed all the school's rules and regulations, only to be told that the school "didn't need a national veterans organization." The letter describes a meeting that VVAW asked for with the school President and some of the tactics being used by the school administration to keep vets from organizing to build the vets' struggle.)

Why are schools against the Vietnam Veterans Against the War(VVAW), trying to keep us from organizing within school campuses? Even when students at these campuses go through all the legal requirements to be "recognized"? And then they use slander and any or all kinds of tricks to keep us out.

One school in Chicago, Kennedy-King College, has at this time done the following things. When VVAW got good response from vets who go there, who are interested in our program, and who would like to see VVAW an organized club on campus, the administration tried to block us by putting out leaflets saying that we (and I'm putting it very mildly) are a bunch of trouble-makers, outsiders, Communists, etc.

So, we of VVAW asked for a meeting with the school president, President Akin, which could deal with these accusations. The President agreed to meet with us, but called the meeting at an odd hour when many student vets were in class or couldn't stay around that late because of jobs or other responsibilities. At the same time, the KKC student government which is running for re-election was also called in for what was supposed to be our meeting with the President.

Now! I ask you, what are they afraid of or ashamed of? I ask again--What are they afraid or ashamed of? The reason for asking again is because not only was the student government there, but the "Martial Arts Club" was brought in as well. Maybe is was for the security of the meeting, for fear that we of VVAW would get out of hand.

That was only one of their tactics. One student government candidate got up to ask, "What are you planning to offer the poor, ignorant Black veterans at this school?" This and other attacks on vets and on VVAW all boiled down to one thing--since many of your members are white, and since most of the KKC vets are Black, what business do you have down here at this school. Well, when I was hit in Vietnam, a white medic picked me up saying that we both had to get back to the States. VA checks don't discriminate--they come late to Black and white veterans.

There was a lot more, but to sum it up, it's just like the military all over again--telling us one thing to do and after it's done, the system is changed so we have to do it all over again. They're afraid of vets getting organizing to fight for what we need so they'll do whatever they can to stop us. But VVAW will not stop or give up trying to be recognized at KKC and at schools all around the nation. And we urge all vets to pull with us and fight for recognition on all campuses.

A Chicago Vet

In early June 15 members of VVAW took part in a takeover of the Statue of Liberty; we hung a banner saying "Extend and Expand the GI Bill" and another saying "We've Carried the Rich for 200 years; Let's Get Them Off Our Backs" over the face of the Statue.

We were acting in protest to the way in which 3.7 million vets had been cut off the GI Bill on Memorial Day, 1976--a day to honor the memory of GIs who had died but also a day to forget living vets. Many Americans heard about the action and as a result heard about the way in which vets all over the country are being treated.

Because Ashby Leach, through his takeover of the offices of the Cheasapeake and Ohio, was expressing the same outrage at the way in which vets were used once and then thrown away, we of VVAW, who took over the Statue of Liberty, want to express our support for him.

The 15 VVAW Members
Who Seized the Statue of
Liberty

CARTER'S "PARDON" FALLS SHORT

UNIVERSAL, UNCONDITIONAL AMNESTY

640,000 veterans of the Vietnam-era have "bad" discharges. Many of these are "general" discharges, often given GIs who spent only a couple of weeks in the military. Even by the military's rules and regulations they did nothing wrong. Still, when trying to find one of the scarce jobs around these days, they have to show their employer what he considers a "less than honorable" discharge.

Worse off are vets with "undesirable" discharges (UD's). Often the military coerced men into signing statements to get a UD by threatening them with court martial and prison. Because of the injustice of the military "justice" system, these GIs knew they had little chance of getting off charges even when they were innocent. In few cases did the military brass tell GIs that their vets benefits--including disability payments--could be refused if they had a UD. And these vets, as well as those with "bad conduct" or "dishonorable" discharges, have little chance at a good job and no GI Bill benefits to improve their chances for work.

The discharge system was set up by the military as one more tool for them to control their troops; the threat of a bad discharge has again and again been used by the brass to try to keep their men in line. GIs who protested the Indochina war, and especially those whose protests took the form of refusing to carry out military orders in Vietnam, were often hit with bad discharges. GIs who organized against the racism in the military or any of the other repressive regulations were often sentenced to bad discharges. What the military could least afford was exposure--GIs seeing that the military was forcing them to fight against their own interests and for the interests of the rich and powerful few who sent us off to Indochina to fight their war for profit. Resistance was met by branding a GI with a bad discharge and throwing him or her out of the military in hopes that the veteran would then shut up.

The tactic didn't work. Just as GIs organized to fight military repression and to fight against the war, vets also organized; one of the issues they have been fighting around has been the struggle for a single-type discharge. Individual vets have flooded the discharge review boards with paperwork to get their discharges upgraded (so much so that the out-moded boards are running years behind) and the government was forced to decentralize: instead of one central group of review boards (one for each branch of the service located in Washington) boards now spend time in various places around the country, meaning that vets no longer have to travel to DC in order to appear before the board.

The fight to get discharges upgraded, and to get the whole discharge system abolished, is part of the struggle for universal and unconditional amnesty for war resisters Once again this issue has jumped onto the front pages when Presidential candidate Jimmy Carter, speaking to the American Legion, said: "Amnesty means that what you did was right; pardon means that what you did, right or wrong, is forgiven. So pardon, yes, amnesty no." Carter, the smooth and oily politician knew that the loud boo's from the Legion leadership would help his position sound stronger and win him some of the "liberal" Democratic backing that he wants. Meanwhile, during the first of the "Debates," Ford tried to weasel around the question of the Nixon pardon by saying that he was trying "to heal the wound of the Vietnam War."

All the politicians, the servants of the ruling class are trying to persuade the American people to forget about Vietnam and the defeat dealt to the American military machine there. They want the American people to forget the lessons of the war in Indochina--that the determination and political strength of a small country can defeat whatever a larger country has to throw at it. And whether it's the kind of "pardon" that Carter's talking about or the "earned re-entry" that Ford tried a year and a half ago, the people of the US, and especially the veterans of the Vietnam era will not forget.

War resisters who went to Canada or military deserters who went to Sweden or veterans with bad discharges should be given amnesty because what they did was right. It should not be a selective pardon to squeeze out a few more votes for some politician. Only because millions of Americans believe that the Indochina War was wrong is Carter forced into a position of supporting even a limited pardon, and as the struggle grows against future rich man's wars, more and more people will demand a single-type discharge made retroactive for all vets, and univeral and unconditional amnesty.

ANGRY VETS EXPOSE NEW JERSEY JOB FAIR AS A "SHAM"

On August 18th, the American Legion, VA, and New Jersey Alliance of Businessmen held a "job's fair" for veterans in Middlesex County, New Jersey. It was a feeble attempt to make the Legion and the VA come off like they were fighting in the interests of vets, but the 100-125 vets who came quickly learned better. Thirty to forty area plants were there; most of them had been laying off workers for some time. One company offered future "prospects" at $3.25 per hour. And, of course, the military recruiters were there, doing no business at all, even though they were the only "company" with immediate jobs to offer.

The anger of the vets who came to the "fair" forced the "dignitaries" to tone down some of their normal garbage--the local mayor, talking about the hundreds of thousands of vets out of work, said he would be glad if 10% could find jobs. The regional VA director bragged at length about his triumph in finding 3 vets a 3 day job in a movie being filmed nearby.

The fact that the "fair" was held at an American Legion post underlined the task of the Legion leadership in using whatever tactic they can to try to mobilize vets, and particularly Vietnam vets, behind their banners to support rich man's wars and red, white and blue patriotism. They play on the real needs of vets for jobs and offer nothing.

Vets, who had come in hopes of finding a job, weren't interested at all in another bureaucratic runaround. They were mad--when the Northern New Jersey Chapter of VVAW, along with people from the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee and New York City VVAW, talked with them, they eagerly signed the Extend and Expand the GI Bill petition, over half of them bought copies of the paper, and many of them wanted to know more about VVAW and particularly how they could join the campaign around the GI Bill and fighting for Jobs or Income Now.

DAV PITS VETS AGAINST VETS

A lot is being said about the various attacks coming down on the GI Bill for all veterans today. And the finger has been correctly pointed at the people responsible. That includes past Congresses who merely legislate for their bosses, the US rich. However, not enough has been said about another of the devices that same class uses to keep veterans disorganized, mainly by pitting them against each other.

Through the use of veterans organizations like the American Legion and the VFW, the ruling class is able to continally put out their lines on domestic, foreign and economic policies and try to convince the people that they speak for vets. These two organizations, when ordered to jump out there and fight against an extension in educational benefits for vets did so quietly by lobbying against such an extension in Congress but maintaining an "appearance" in public of fighting for all vets. Another vets organization, the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) has not been so subtle in their methods.

The national commander of the DAV, Lyle Pearson, recently said in a special report published in the August issue of the DAV Magazine, and referring to the DAV's opposition to an extension of GI Bill benefits, "The National Executive Committee took this stand because we feel the extensions outlined in various legislative proposals--at a cost hovering around $600 million--would devour funds needed to higher priority programs." Clearly, Mr Pearson was stating that the needs of one group of veterans are more important than another and some veterans would have to do without. Mr Pearson further stated, "Today's economic problems, coupled with Federal budget restraints, have created an atmosphere of stiff competition for Federal dollars among various programs of the VA. And any extension would almost necessarily cut into those designed to assist disabled veterans."

Mr Pearson is no babe in the woods. He knows exactly what he is saying and whose interest he's working in. We in VVAW say it's certainly not in the interest of vets, those in his organization or vets in general. He knows damn well where the money that runs this country comes from and probably who the wealthy few are that control the riches. Those same people got rich by exploiting people the world over and using us, the veterans, to enforce their rule. After many of us returned home we got little or nothing as our rewards.

No one will deny that disabled vets need special treatment, that they're not getting enough, nor will they ever unless they fight for it. In the same respect VVAW knows that all vets disabled, wartime or peacetime will never reach a decent standard of living unless all vets from all eras unite to fight for what we need. Why should we be reduced to fighting each other over a few scraps for what we have to have when the people who are controlling the wealth couldn't give a damn if we live or die.

In Mr Pearson's article he quotes Ray Roberts, Chairman of the House Vets Committee, who states, "The principal support for this bill (meaning an extension of benefits) comes from a group of federally funded college employees rather than from veterans and veterans groups. These people are simply trying to protect their jobs and federal income for the institutions they work for."

Well, listen to this, and listen damn close, buddy! We're veterans. We go to school on that shrinking GI Bill. Many of us haven't got decent jobs or any jobs at all. We ain't got no federal funding. Some of us work in a crummy factory and would like to go to school at night--no matter what era we're from. We can see right through the crap you're slinging at us. We're not going to be reduced to fighting other vets for what we need. We'll get what we need from the people you work for, the rich who line your pockets.

VVAW calls on all veterans of all eras and of all organizations to unite with us in this fight for what we need and stop being used against each other. We need decent benefits but not at the expense of our brothers and sisters. "Decent Benefits for All Veterans."

In CINCY CONGRESSMAN DOESN'T SHOW

On September 17th the Cincinnati Chapter of VVAW held a picket line outside the office of Congressman Willis Gradison in the Cincinnati Federal Building, as a part of the VVAW national campaign to extend and expand the GI Bill. After a short picket line, the 11 vets, including two who had never been to a picket line before, went upstairs to the Congressman's office. Having called three weeks ahead of time, they expected that the Congressman would be there, but he didn't show. Instead one of his flunkies was there.

A spokesman for VVAW, speaking to politician and press alike, laid out some of the attacks coming down on the GI Bill, but more than that, how vets are fighting back through organizing and uniting vets into our struggle. The Congressman's flunkey responded by looking very nervous when confronted by the angry vets--and said nothing. In fact there was nothing he could say since neither his Congressman nor any other is going to fight to win the demands and needs of veterans.

The 11 VVAW chapter members in the Congressman's office represented far more than just themselves: they carried with them copies of the VVAW national petition to Extend and Expand the GI Bill with 500 signatures of vets from the Cincinnati area, vets who support the campaign. So, when the VVAW members left the office to take the fight back to the streets, the campaign which relies on vets own strength, not on Congress or politicians, was already building.

SELL THE VETERAN--Neighborhood young people near one VVAW office sold The Veteran, then told VVAW to take all the sales money in order to print the next issue.

US Still Won't Admit Defeat

On September 14th the United Nations Security Council, acting on a French proposal, postponed debate on UN membership for the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The postponement was made in hopes of averting an expected veto by the US. US Ambassador William Scranton has been directed by President Ford to veto Vietnam's membership to the UN because of what he characterized as "Vietnam's failure to account for more than 800 military personnel still missing in Vietnam." Additionally, Scranton added to reporters, "That this wasn't a political decision. The US role in the United Nations is non-partisan and the United Nations is not a political organization."

The reason for the planned veto is obviously an ill-disguised tactic to cover for the US loss in Vietnam. Scranton's statement will probably stand as one of the poorly done "ignorance" ploys in a long time.

In postponing the vote on Vietnam's membership, the other 14 members of the council had hoped that following the US elections in November, that a shift in policy, meaning Carter's election or voter pressure off Ford, would dissolve the US veto. Meanwhile Carter has stated that he agrees with Ford's decision to block Vietnam's membership.

The issue of the MIAs is a shallow and outrageous cover for the resistance to Vietnam's membership. Ford and the US ruling class he fronts for could give a damn less about the 800 MIAs anymore than they cared about the actual dead and wounded from the Vietnam war. The US is continually raising the issue of MIAs as a weapon in dealing with Vietnam. Vietnam has met all the conditions stipulated in the peace agreements; the US has met none. If there are questions about MIAs, people must examine the primary question about them: what were they doing there in the first place?

Continued on back page

Japan Conference Down for Count

SUPERPOWERS SQUARE OFF

Two American officers are killed on the DMZ in Korea--a place where they have no business being in the first place--and the US military goes on "alert." Angola is still a point of contention, and the struggles of the Black majority in South Africa grow each day, with the US government trying to find a way out to avoid another political defeat like they suffered in Angola. In Lebanon, the US backed Israeli's and the Soviet-Union-backed Syrians contend to see who will get the chance to try to suppress the struggles of the Palestinian people. Huge defense budgets gobble up vast amounts of the resources of both the US and USSR. While there's no way to predict exactly which spark of contention will erupt into a full-scale war, it's clear that both superpowers are armed to the teeth and preparing for another war.

Of course, like thieves always do, these superpowers try to disguise their war preparations, whether it's President Ford saying that we must have "Peace through military strength" or his opposite number in the Soviet Union saying the same thing in Russian. Neither one of these superpowers can afford to appear to the rest of the world as the bully it is.

To VVAW this became clearer during a recent Conference in Japan. This was the 5th time that a VVAW delegate has gone to Japan to attend the World Conference Against A&H Bombs. In the past it seemed to us that this conference was helping to build an international movement against nuclear weapons and for the cause of peace. But, at the 1976 Conference, the leadership of the Conference not only refused to discuss the increasing danger of war and its source, but actually helped the superpowers hide their war preparations. What we had hoped would be an honest and frank discussion of war and nuclear war, with people from around the world, turned out to be only the rubber stamping of the political views of the sponsoring organization, Gensuikyo (a Japanese Peace Group). Not only couldn't we reach agreement about the role of the Soviet Union and the mounting tension between the two superpowers, we couldn't even discuss it.

The organizers of the Conference made it clear that it was "okay to talk about US imperialism around the world, but don't mention the Soviet Union." Gensuikyo used every trick in the book to sidetrack and suppress discussion. Once they postponed a discussion until a later meeting--which was never held. Another time they had a caucus meet secretly, without the VVAW representative, to vote down our proposal.

But we know that to fight against the danger of war we have to know the source. And that's why we talk about the two superpowers. Those of us who have been in a position to have to serve the cause of the US ruling class--in Vietnam or Korea or wherever--have seen the face of US aggression: the bombing of villages, napalm, killing innocent women and children and all the rest. What we don't know quite so well is the role that the Soviet Union plays in the world today.

At the heart of world disorder today is the growing contention for global domination between the two superpowers, the US and the USSR. This mounting tension and competition threatens to plunge us into another world war. The major fact behind this has been the change of the Soviet Union from a socialist nation to a capitalist nation, a nation facing all the many problems which we see in the US every day. Crime is on the rise--a group of managers of one factory have recently been jailed after is was discovered that they were stealing money from the state and using it for a private recreation area for themselves and their lady friends (sound familiar?). There is unemployment and inflation, all the trappings of a capitalist state. Even more important that these outward signs, however, is the fact that the Soviet Union stations its troops throughout Eastern Europe just like the US does in the Western part of that continent. And just like the US, it has a huge military budget, one that is constantly growing.

As a country which operates under capitalism, the Soviet Union's new ruling class has to face the same problems as their counterparts in the US. Fundamental to this is that they must have their economy expand or die--they have to continually find new markets, new natural resources, new sources of cheap labor, new places to invest money at a profit to themselves. But, since the end of World War II, the US bosses have dominated the world scene; now the rising Soviet fat cats are trying to take charge. And this clash of vital interests, taking place in different ways all over the world, provides all the ingredients necessary to start a new war. Neither side can back down--their profits are at stake. And while the "new czars" in the Soviet Union are scouring the world looking for new economic conquests, the US ruling class is not only trying desparately to hold on to what they've got, but is trying to expand their influence.

When Conferences such as the Gensuikyo Conference in Japan or any other public forum look at the world situation and identify only one of the causes of world conflict, they are playing right into the hands of the Soviet Union. By saying, either openly or indirectly, that the actions and policies of the Soviet Union are "peaceful," they help to disarm people around the world as to the true source of danger.

There's another lie that this Conference is helping to spread. The issue of nuclear weapons is vital to the people of Japan, the only country where such weapons were ever used. So when Gensuikyo talks of nuclear disarmament and asks for a world conference to discuss this topic, they get much support. Such a conference would be useful if it began with the superpowers withdrawing their nuclear weapons from other countries (Europe, for instance) and guaranteeing they will never be the first to use nuclear weapons. But a world disarmament conference which only serves as a smokescreen for the superpowers to talk peace while they arm to the teeth only serves as a smokescreen for the superpowers to talk peace while they arm to the teeth only misleads people around the world.

Continued on page 15

CONFERENCE ON THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION

A Conference to discuss the international situation and the growing danger of war will be held in New York City. The tentative date is November 13th. Early plans include urging people to attend from around the country. For more information contact the local VVAW chapter or the VVAW National Office.

PHILLY

VETS HIT JOB FAIR

A lot of vets are out of work and looking to get jobs. Recently about 35 vets read in a Philadelphia newspaper about a job seminar for Vietnam vets, and went to the Federal Building to see what was happening. This job seminar was for tips on how to fill out resumes. No jobs, just a snowjob for the vets who attended.

This seminar was sponsored by the National Alliance of Businessmen and had representatives from the VA, Xerox Corporation, and the State Civil Service Commission. Pretty quick, the vets caught on that the whole thing was a farce--another attempt by the ruling class to show Vietnam Vets that they are "concerned" about us. But it didn't take too long for these turkeys to put their feet in their mouth.

One vet with a college degree said he couldn't get a job because everywhere he applied he was told he was "over qualified." The hacks from civil service told him to lie on his application. The vet said, "Isn't this something. A representative of the state tells me to lie on my application."

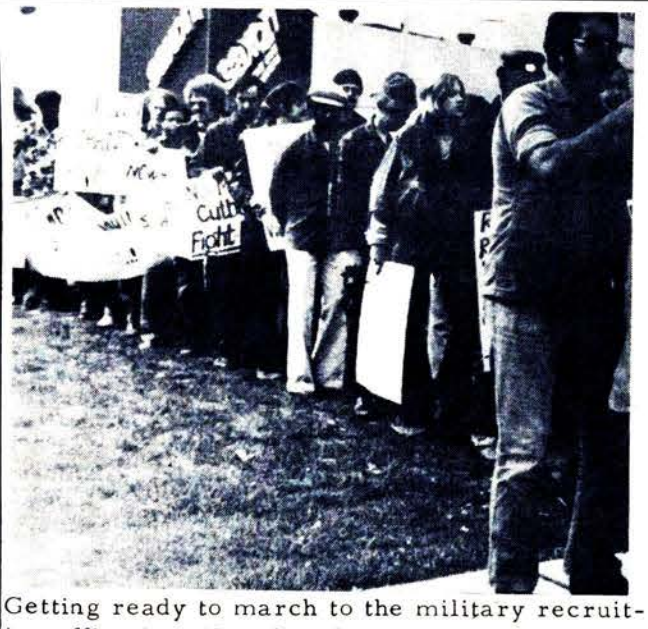
And on and on it went. Because the chumps didn't have any answers or jobs they began pulling things out of their hats. A VA rep started talking about how there's a program for vets out of the service for less than a year. One angry vet asked, "What about me? I'm out of the service for nine years, disabled and can't find anything." The VA rep had nothing to say.

When a member of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War stood up and said, "The only way we can get jobs is if we vets get together and fight for jobs."

The Black retired Navy lifer with 30 years who was host of the seminar started with the old Navy trick of "divide and conquer," saying, "What do white guys care about Blacks?" But this scheme didn't work. One Black vet from VVAW said, "This isn't the question of Black against white, it's a question of class against class." All the vets, Black and white, agreed and started telling the lifer off.

And that's exactly what it is--a question of class against class. That was clear to almost all of the vets at the jobs seminar. Several of the vets there have expressed a real interest in finding out more about what the Philly chapter is doing, and one vet joined the organization and said: "It's the only way we can get jobs."

JOBS OR INCOME NOW



Getting ready to march to the military recruiting office in Milwaukee during the September 25th VVAW regional meeting.

MILWAUKEE

MIDWEST VETS MEET TO PLAN STRUGGLE AHEAD

The first of three VVAW regional conferences took place in Milwaukee on the 25th of September. The day began with a dynamite march and picket line at the office of a military recruiter--who did no business while vets were there exposing his lies--and ended with a party to raise funds for publication of The Veteran, during which $140 was collected. In between there was a conference attended by vets from 6 Midwestern states where we discussed the situation facing vets today, what we're going to do about it, and what kind of activities we can carry out around the elections and Veterans Day.

In the morning, 50 people, many of them dressed in fatigues and wearing medals won for serving the ruling class in Vietnam, marched through a business section of Milwaukee and held a picket line outside a military recruiting station. Recruiting stations bring up bad memories for many vets as we were often sucked into the service both with the promises about all the great benefits which would be given to us once we got out and with a lot of hot air about "defending democracy and freedom." Both advertisements, we learned through bitter experience, were a pack of lies. And this was the message that VVAW was taking out to the people during the picket line. There were speeches about why "We Won't Fight Another Rich Man's War," and about how vets are being mistreated. Both the march and the demonstration were done in cadence and marching in step--old military chants and songs were turned to the purposes of fighting against that same class which once sent us off to fight their wars for profit.

The Conference opened with statements of support from Youth in Action, a nation-wide group of youth fighting for a decent life around the many issues confronting youth today. And from the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee (UWOC), a national organization of the unemployed who use the slogan "Jobs or Income Now!" In an opening speech from VVAW, the situation in which we vets find ourselves was laid out--the growing danger of war, the economic crisis, the attacks on all working people and particularly on vets. The speech also talked about how vets are joining to fight these attacks. "It's with a clear sense of where the attacks on vets are coming from, that's how we're building the struggle of vets. We want--and we will fight for--checks to come on time, because that's one of the things that vets need. We'll fight for--and win--our demand to Extend and Expand the GI Bill, because vets need that too," the speaker said. "We must build the vets struggle. . .which can also expose the war preparations of the rich. . . .Because the attacks on the GI Bill come from a class--the ruling class--and are part of their general attack on all working people, VVAW is calling on vets--all vets--to take up the fight and join with us."

A later speech concentrated on the campaign to Extend and Expand the GI Bill; it laid out plans for Veterans Day activities and for building the campaign. "Our strength," the speaker said, "lies in our unity and the depth of our struggle. We know when Congress will rule in our favor--only when we force them to by sheer force of numbers and then it will continue to be a tooth and nail struggle to keep what we've won."

The day's final speaker came from UWOC to talk about their plans for the elections when, on the afternoon of election day, November 2, they will be sponsoring demonstrations around the country. Knowing that neither Ford nor Carter, nor the system that both of them serve, works in the interests of working people, UWOC will be building a battle throughout the election campaign. We Won't Be Stepped On By The Elephant; We Won't Be Kicked By The Donkey; Advance Through Our Own Struggle--these are the key points of the campaign. Meanwhile UWOC will continue to build around the demand of "Jobs Or Income Now." The overall slogan for the election period is Politicians Fight For $ Interests; We Must Fight For Our Own.

VVAW chapters at the meeting enthusiastically took up the UWOC campaign; decisions about how best to participate in it will be made locally. All agreed that we should use the elections to bring up the question of universal, unconditional amnesty, already raised by the candidates, and talk about the lessons we learned from the war.

The Conference was a real success; many new vets attended, new chapters were represented, and the VVAW national campaign is well underway in many places. The vets struggle will continue to be built in meetings held in New York City and in Los Angeles.

"That swine flu really has me worried!"

WAR

Continued from page 13

Each day's news makes it clearer that the danger of war is growing. Behind this growing danger is the clash between the rulers of the superpowers, both forced by their capitlist systems to try to grasp all that they can. We in VVAW often have said, "We Won't Fight Another Rich Man's War," and that holds true for any attempts by the rulers of the US to use us once again, this time to fight against working people in the Soviet Union.

The attempts to get us to do their dirty work again are well under way; the US rulers keep pointing out that the rulers of the Soviet Union are much worse than they are, that it's our duty to "defend our country" if there is a contest with the USSR. Or, to put it another way, we should go off once again to fight and die in their wars, only to return home to find the same bunch of bastards sitting on top trying to crush us. No way. If there is another war, a war between these capitalists, it's our job to take on the Rockefellers and their class. We will continue our struggle right here, against the US rulers, the same class which used us once and then threw us away.

...POW

Continued from page 6

troops there were Moslems and they didn't like to eat pork so the Chinese got them lamb and goat meat.

"When we first entered the POW camp we were issued notebooks, pencils and pens so we could write home. One GI there, everyday he was sulky and unhappy. We could never find out what was wrong. One day we discovered his problem. He couldn't read or write enough English to write home to his mother. The Chinese people felt very bad about this so they took him down to their headquarters everyday for about six months until he could read and write enough to write his own letters home. What was wrong about that?" Veneris thought that example was typical of their treatment as POWs.

Asked about the Chinese and Korean brainwashing techniques that the US people were told so much about, Veneris replied: "If you want to say brainwashing, you have to break that down into two. . . .As an individual if I think something is wrong I have to change my opinions myself. . . . I saw where I was deceived and witnessed what the Chinese and Korean people had actually done. It was really the opposite of what I had been told. . . .During my time in the POW camp I got to understand the Chinese and Korean people better and why they treated the GIs well. They stated that the GIs don't cause wars, they are cannon fodder. It's the common man that suffers in the wars, not the 'money bags.'"

Concerning his going to China after the Peace Agreement, Veneris said, "I could see the Korean and Chinese peoples' hand was held out in friendship. . . . They (the US leaders) signed the peace agreement. In that peace agreement it said very clearly that I could go to any country I wanted to, so I took the liberty and freedom that they gave me. I went to China as an individual American to build that friendship between our peoples. After I went to China, they (the US military) gave me a Dishonorable Discharge because I took the freedom they gave and then they called me a turn coat. . . .

"First and foremost I would like to say this. I'm an American citizen. I was brought up here and I think the most precious thing is the 200 million American people. When I say that I love the American people, I say that I also love the Chinese people. I love all working peoples of the world. I think the greatest thing in the world is to be among the people. That is where our strength lies, down in the grassroots. What would the world be without working people!"

James Veneris has lived and worked in China for the last 23 years. His wife and himself work in the same factory in the city of Tsinan. In the future Mr Veneris would like to return for another visit to the US with his wife and two children. James Veneris, former POW, would like to express his thanks to the people and the peoples' government of China and of Korea for giving him the opportunity to live and share his experiences with the American people and to build the friendship among all peoples of the world.

Elections

Continued from page 1

People give different reasons for their non-interest in elections--"I don't like either candidate," "It doesn't seem to make any difference who I vote for,""All politicians are corrupt," "The economy keeps right on going downhill no matter who's in office," and a series of similar reasons. And all of these reasons are at least a part of the truth.

But what they all boil down to is people seeing that the sweet-talking politicians will say damn near anything to gobble up a few more votes and the, once elected, won't serve the needs of the people. Evidence is too plain to miss. 7.8% unemployed, and that's one of the government figures jiggled around to make them look as good as possible. That means 10 million men and women standing in lines at unemployment offices looking for jobs or, if they can't get jobs, trying to get enough to live on. Cities filled with burned-out vacant houses while millions of people look for a decent place to live, and the very few live on their estates behind high walls and bask in their private swimming pools. Workers forced into overtime in factories that are unsafe even when the worker is fresh and alert, and which become more and more dangerous when workers get tired. Crime. Dope. Polluted air. Hospitals closed for lack of money.

Although they don't venture into the poorest communities, even politicians see some of these problems. So they come up with get-rich-quick schemes and outright lies to make it sound like they have solutions. For instance, there is the Humphrey-Hawkins Bill which is supposed to put a few people to work for the government at starvation wages and thereby halt unemployment. Or an "omnibus" veterans bill which, while the sponsors talk about how it will help vets, is in fact an attempt to steal away some of the few benefits that vets still have.

Deomcrats and Republicsn both admit that the big issue in this election is not their respective positions on unemployment or relations with the Soviet Union or the other thousands of things on the minds of the American people. The issue is trust. While they try to sound different and may in fact have small differences in their tactics or in the words they use, the fact that liberals and conservatives are the same in all but words was underlined when "Mr Conservative," Ronald Reagan could chose "Mr Liberal Senator" Richard Schweiker as his prospective running mate because, they both said, "Our ideas are the same."

Damn right! Not only are their ideas the same, but so are their bosses--and Carters and Fords and all the rest of that bunch of gangsters, from top to bottom. When Chase Manhattan Bank, or General Motors or Gulf Oil pull the strings, these puppets jump and jump fast. When it comes to vets benefits--where there are no profits to be made--the politicians will talk and talk and do nothing. When it comes to $104.3 billion for defense, they may not talk so much, but they'll vote for it in a big hurry. They see that the class they serve--the rich and powerful--will not only make big bucks off defense spending, but that they have economic and political interests to protect and expand through war. Look for the bucks and watch the politicans following after.

Working people have no reason to vote for either presidential candidate; working people have every reason to stand up and fight for what we need, because that's the only way we've won gains in the past, like the 8 hour day or unemployment compensation, and the only way we'll win gains in the future. These gains have come because the rich and their flunkey politicians saw a huge movement growing and saw their own positions threatened. When there wasn't anything else they could do, they gave in, just like they finally withdrew US troops from Indochina in the face of massive protest at home and determined resistance by the Indochinese. For all their "compassion" and "concern," there isn't a politician around we can rely on--we can rely only on ourselves and our struggle. Politicans fight for $ interests; We must fight for our own!

In Southern Africa

PEOPLES' BATTLE INTENSIFIES

The struggle for liberation is growing throughout Southern Africa. Unwilling to live any longer under a vicious system of racism and exploitation known as apartheid, the people of Azania (South Africa) have organized a huge strike involving thousands of workers in the major industrial areas of Johannesburg and Capetown. Contrary to media reports of limited student rebellions, the strike has united the masses of Black Africans and other non-whites whom the South African rulers had tried to pit against each other. In the face of these demonstrations, the racist government of Prime Minister Vorster has responded with murder and increased repression on the Azanian people.

The demonstrations also responded to Kissinger's flitting around the continent, by signs and chants of "Kissinger is a murderer" and Kissinger Go Home." Yes, Henry Kissinger, famed jet-setter, able to sign agreements with a single hand was about his usual work of trying to prop up American business interests and save the failing white minority-ruled governments as thousands demonstrated and were attacked in the streets.

American interests are in bad trouble in Africa. The uprising in Azaniz, the growth of people's war in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) plus the Soviet foothold in Angola, has sent the US and their friends in South Africa running for cover. Suddenly, after years of exploitation, they're looking for a "peaceful solution" and a "slow transition" to majority Black rule. What this really means is they're casting about for a solution that will slow down the inevitable victory of the African people, letting them try to stabilize their control once again by attempting to head off the struggle by phoney "agreements." In time the people of these countries will truly decide the outcome.

Recent events in Zimbabwe have shaken the South African rulers soundly. The Rhodesian government, also comprised of white minority rule, is feeling the pressure as the liberation movement in that country grows. Rhodesia is seen by South Africa as the last block in its defense perimeter after the Portuguese were driven from Mozambique and Angola. But that last block is seen as quite a problem too. If something isn't done in Rhodesia and done fast that country will fall to the people and increase the danger of South Africa being liberated that much sooner, bringing an end to white rule in Africa.

Faced with this reality, the US and South Africa are trying desparately to bring to power in Rhodesia an African government that would be sympathetic to their interests. Kissinger has made his offer and called in England, former colonial rulers in Rhodesia ment, in other words, to set up a pro-US government in Zimbabwe, could fall apart at any moment before the armed struggle of the masses.

In nearby Namibia (formerly Southwest Africa) the South African government has already attempted such a plan offering a multi-racial, majority rule, independent state in two years. But there also the people are not taking the bait. The Southwest Africa Peoples Organization (SWAPO), the main liberation force in Namibia has been excluded from the planning conferences for the handpicked "tribal government." Large numbers of South African troops currently occupy Namibia and are fighting a losing battle against the revolutionary movement of the Namibian people.

Wherever Vorster's apartheid government looks, to Namibia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, or the Soviet controlled Angola, South Africa has problems. Things at home don't look so good for the racists either. Trying to divide the workers' struggle in Soweto, South African police threatened Zulu tribesmen with their jobs and lives, and forced them to attack other workers who were maintaining a strike and boycott against South African businesses and industries. The dream of portraying the strikers as a handful of dissidents and "radicals" soon fell apart when the tribal leader of the Zulus, 4.8 million African tribesmen, publically condemned the actions and exposed the attacks as the result of infiltration and provocation of South African police spies. Added to this was the rebellion of thousands of students of "mixed blood"--who are "colored" by apartheid laws) who ran and demonstrated through the heart of white sections of Capetown.

When several hundred white students at the University of Capetown demonstrated in solidarity with the African movement, the police went into fits of attacking and arresting whites who had dared to punch holes in South African claims of "total" white support for their system of racism.

The South African government has tried every means of stopping the struggle of Africans, from terror to outright murder. But the growing strikes, the movements in surrounding countries, and the denunciations of Kissinger's proposals represent tremendous advances toward the eventual liberation of Azania. In short, it points toward the end to US and South African exploitation of the African people.

Continued from page 12

The US ruling class threw almost everything they had at Vietnam, attempting to crush the people's struggle there. With calculated policies of devastation and genocide the US failed to break the national liberation movement in that country and was eventually driven from the country dragging its puppet rulers with them. This is the primary motivation behind the US veto of Vietnam. It does not want Vietnamese participation in international affairs and it does not want to suffer the loss of international prestige by having to deal openly with a small country that so thoroughly defied its power and won.

In a similar situation the US attempted to block the Peoples' Republic of China, representing one quarter of the world's population, from the UN for years. More than a simple revenge, China and now Vietnam represented a clear-cut slap in the face to US foreign policy. As John Foster Dulles, chief architect of US imperialism after World War II bluntly put it, "We have no enemies, only interests."

Of late US participation in the UN has been severely limited by the majority of countries of the world who have consistently defeated just about every proposal by the US. US Secretary of State Kissinger has even threatened that the US will take its marbles and go home because the nations are not jumping to the tune of US imperialism any longer.

The question now is not if Vietnam will be admitted to the UN but when Vietnam will be admitted. The US and the few of its remaining "faithful" nations will eventually be swept away in their blocking attempt as they face the will of the world's people who won't allow this outrage in their name. Vietnam will win!

Local Address